

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:591

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001

INDO-PAK SUMMIT

AJAY CHAKRABORTY;BRAHMANAND MANDAL;CHANDRA NATH SINGH;JASWANT SINGH YADAV;MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT;RAJESH RANJAN (PAPPU YADAV);RATTAN LAL KATARIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the issues discussed at the recently concluded Indo-Pak Summit;
- (b) the outcome thereof, issue-wise
- (c) whether Indian invitation to Pakistan's President had any element of extraneous pressure as reported in a section of press;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the respective Indian and Pakistani delegation which participated in the talks; and
- (f) the way the Summit is expected to improve the Indo-Pak relations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)-(f) In keeping with our traditional approaches that seek to build good neighbourly ties with Pakistan, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee extended an invitation to the President of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf, to visit India from 14 to 16 July, 2001.

During the first day of his visit in New Delhi, i.e. 14th July 2001, President Pervez Musharraf met President Shri K.R. Narayanan. Vice-President Shri Krishan Kant, Home Minister, External Affairs Minister/Raksha Mantri and the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition also called on him.

Intensive discussions were held between Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Pervez Musharraf at their retreat in Agra on 15th and 16th July, 2001. At Agra, the two leaders held talks by themselves and also during delegation level talks. In the delegation level talks Prime Minister was assisted by Home Minister, External Affairs Minister/Raksha Mantri, Finance Minister, Minister of Commerce & Industry and senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of External Affairs. The Pakistan President was assisted by his Foreign Minister and senior officials from the President's Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During these discussions Prime Minister emphasised the importance of building trust and confidence so as to create a conducive atmosphere to address and move forward on outstanding issues including Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister also referred to specific issues which would help the processes of peace. These included the issue of 54 POWs believed to be in Pakistani jails, the extradition of known terrorists and criminals who have been given sanctuary in Pakistan, the need to improve the upkeep of religious shrines and the treatment of pilgrims, and enhancement of trade ties for mutual benefit. Prime Minister also focused on cross-border terrorism being promoted in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India and emphasized our firm resolve, stamina and ability to resist and defeat terrorist violence.

The Pakistan side, however, continued to adopt an approach that was almost exclusively fixated on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. The Pakistan President emphasized the 'centrality' of the issue of Jammu & Kashmir, making it clear that by this Pakistan meant that the normalization of India-Pakistan relations would take place only if the issue of Kashmir was resolved to its satisfaction. Pakistan also sought to discount the importance of past agreements between India and Pakistan on the ground that they had not accorded sufficient 'centrality' to the issue of Jammu & Kashmir.

India shall continue with its endeavor to build a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. Though at Agra, India and Pakistan could not reach closure on an agreed text, the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, which are the cornerstones of India Pakistan relations, shall continue to serve as the guide to our policy towards Pakistan.

The sole determinant of India's foreign policy is India's supreme national interest. There is no question of any pressure from any quarter.